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POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS

BARNETT, JAMES D. *The Operation of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Oregon.* Pp. xi, 295. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915.

This is an inclusive and thorough study of the operation of the state-wide initiative and referendum and recall in Oregon. It does not include a study of the use of the referendum in local affairs. In the appendix are given a good bibliography of constitutional and statutory provisions relating to these matters, the vote on matters initiated and referred, examples of the arguments for a measure on an initiative petition, newspaper advice on direct legislation, recommendations of the Taxpayers' League, a sample of advertisements, a recall petition and a recall ballot.

He who would like to get at the facts and the underlying sentiments upon which these so-called agencies of democracy are based can find them in no other book so ably and completely expressed as in this book by Dr. Barnett. Every phase of the subjects is discussed, such as the actual author of the proposed legislation, motives in legislation, the preparation of measures, the substance and form of measures, the making of petitions, the multiplicity of measures, campaign organization, organization of the vote, the relation of direct legislation to the executive and legislature, checks of the assembly upon direct legislation, the relation of direct legislation to the courts, to political parties and to stability in government. Such interesting matters are discussed in detail as the extent to which voters vote by title; the extent to which they tend to vote "no" on all measures when there are certain measures to which they are opposed; the extent to which votes are cast without an evident reading of the measure; the soundness and wholesomeness of direct legislation and the recall as agencies for securing responsiveness in government.

The author points out that "all the most radical measures were rejected by the voters" but concludes that "on the whole it appears that the voters have shown a decidedly progressive attitude in direct legislation." He believes that "the results of direct legislation at least compare favorably with those of representative legislation." The work is a highly creditable piece of research on a current topic.

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ELLIOTT, EDWARD. *American Government and Majority Rule.* Pp. vii, 175. Price, \$1.25. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1916.

The people of the United States have been hindered in the attainment of democracy by the form of government through which they have been compelled to act. This form is primarily a multiplicity of offices as represented in the long ballot, and in the check and balance system. Historical conditions and developments are submitted in order to sustain these principles.

Simplification of government is based on the twentieth century belief that there is no fear of government, and that democracy is not desirous of limiting the